

Rapid Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Bulletin No. 2

To: Nursing Home Administrators

From: COVID-19 Testing Task Force, Maryland Department of Health

CC: Local Health Officers

Subject: Obtaining Rapid POC Testing Supplies

Date: October 16, 2020

Nursing Home Administrators:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has procured 250,000 rapid point-of-care (POC) antigen tests and 150 testing devices from manufacturer Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

Rapid POC testing supplies will be available for purchase, as supplies permit, from MDH at a cost of **\$990.00/kit of 30 tests** and **\$325.00/testing device**. Each testing device has a shelf life of two years or 3,500 tests, whichever occurs first; each test has a current shelf life of six months. Please also note that each facility wishing to obtain these supplies must have a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) waiver and the appropriate state laboratory permit.

To obtain or change the required lab permits:

- *If you already have a Maryland laboratory license and CLIA certification, fully complete a [change form](#) to add the COVID antigen test.*
- *To apply for a Maryland laboratory license, fully complete a [State Compliance Application](#).*
- *To apply for CLIA certification, fully complete a [CLIA Certification Application](#).*

Distribution Prioritization: Rapid POC testing supplies will be available for purchase by MDH according to the following order of priority:

1. Congregate-care facilities:
 - a. Nursing Homes
 - b. Correctional Facilities
 - c. Facilities with dormitories and other residential settings
 - d. Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)
2. Residential Treatment Facilities
 - a. Developmental Disability Facilities
 - b. Behavioral Health Facilities
3. State agencies and local health departments (LHDs)
4. Other private entities, including somatic healthcare providers

This order of priority is based on the following considerations:

1. **Ability to establish an appropriate test-setting and organizational infrastructure.**

This infrastructure includes staffing, quality assurance/quality control, results reporting, and test management protocols. Additionally, each facility requires:

- a. designated testing space;
- b. CLIA waiver certification and appropriate state permit;
- c. appropriate personnel on site to collect specimens and process samples; and
- d. appropriate personnel to electronically report all results daily to the state, via Maryland's Health Information Exchange, CRISP. Information on how to register to use CRISP can be found [here](#).

2. **Need for POC tests** as determined by:

- a. total number of estimated at-risk and/or infected individuals -OR-
- b. institutional need to maintain operations.

3. **Surrounding county positivity rate** as identified by the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) (current rates can be found [here](#) under heading "COVID-19 Testing"). Counties with higher positivity rates will be placed higher on the distribution list.

Indicating demand: Please fill out [this interest form](#) so that Maryland can estimate demand and determine the need for additional orders. Completion of this form does not constitute order fulfillment. For any additional questions, please email MDH.RapidPOCTest@Maryland.gov.